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LOUISIANA FOLK-TALES.

THE second volume of the Memoirs of The American Folk-Lore Society is entitled "Louisiana Folk-Tales, in French Dialect and English Translation, collected and edited by Alcée Fortier." The work of Professor Fortier will be ready for delivery about the time of the publication of this notice. Two volumes of the memoirs, therefore, will belong to the current year, the first volume being the "Folk-Tales of Angola."

The present publication consists of folk-tales in French Creole dialect, with literal English version on opposite pages; these tales, twenty-seven in number, with very brief notes, occupy ninety-four pages. An appendix, pages 98-122, includes tales already elsewhere printed, and here given only in English translation. Additional pages contain society matter, with a list of subscribers to the Publication Fund, while seven pages are taken up with a Preface, Index, and observations on the dialect.

The book, as will be seen, like its predecessor, is to be regarded from two separate points of view, as having linguistic and traditional value.

The French Creole dialect of Louisiana is an exceedingly interesting example of the influence on a European tongue of negro speech and character. The number of texts heretofore published being exceedingly scanty, the present collection will be found by philologists a welcome addition. The variation from literary French is so great that the reader will at first find the language not easily intelligible; but, with the aid of the English version, he will soon be able to understand the singular abbreviations and simplifications which mark the speech, to which belongs a peculiar naïveté.

As regards the matter, the stories fall into two classes — Animal Tales and Märchen (Fairy-tales). In the former will be found to figure especially Brer Rabbit, under his French title of *Compair Lapin*. In the future, The American Folk-Lore Society hopes to issue a monograph on animal tales of this character, which exist over the whole world, as a result of transmission from common sources.

The "Fairy-tales" will be found to belong to types familiar in the collection of Grimm and others. In most cases these tales appear to have entered Louisiana through French influence.

It is greatly to be desired that this series of memoirs, for which exist abundant materials, should be continued without intermission; members of the society, as well as all persons interested in Americana, are urged to support the undertaking by their subscriptions.